

14 MEMOIRS OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

salon where Maria Louisa remained, in deference to her father. She did not, however, carry her deference so far as to give a favorable reception to him whom she regarded as the author of all her misfortunes. She listened with considerable coldness to the offers and protestations of Alexander, and merely replied that all she wished for was the liberty of returning to her family.¹ A few days after this painful interview Maria Louisa and her son set off for Vienna.

ⁱ A few days after this *vmt* Alexander paid his *nwmoc*ts to Bonaparte's other wife, Josephine. In this great breaking up of empires and kingdoms the unfortunate Josephine, who had been suffering agon ten on account of the husband who had abandoned her, was not forgotten. One of the first things the Emperor of Russia did on arriving at Paris was to despatch a guard for the protection of her beautiful little palace at Malmaison. The Allied sovereigns treated her with delicacy and consideration.

^{*} As soon as the Emperor Alexander knew that the, *Kmprens* Josephine had arrived at Malmaison he hastened to pay her a visit. It is not possible to be more amiable than he was to her. When in the course of conversation he spoke of the occupation of Paris by the Allies, and of the position of the Emperor Napoleon, it was always in perfectly measured language; he never forgot for a single instant that he was speaking *lw»forc* one who had been the wife of his *vammis*ltd enemy. On the other side the *cx-Kmp*rt'ss did not withhold the tender sentiments, the lively affection she still entertained for Napoleon. . . . Alexander had certainly something elevated and magnanimous in his character, which would not permit him to say a single word capable of imputing misfortune to the *Km*pross; he had only one prayer to make to him, and that was for her children.^{*}

This visit was soon followed by those of the other Allied Princes.

"The King of Prussia and the Princes, his sons, came rather frequently to pay their court to Josephine; they even dined with her several times at Malmaison; but the Emperor Alexander came much more frequently. The Queen Hortense was always with her mother when *Hh«»* received the sovereigns, and assisted her in doing the honors of the house. The illustrious strangers exceedingly admired Malmaison, which seemed to them *ti* charming residence. They were particularly struck with its *li««* garden and **«on«* *Hervatories.*"^{*}

From this moment, however, *Jtwephini*M* health rapidly declined, and she *<<* did not live to see Napoleon's return from *Kilm**. *Hht** often itaid to her attendant. "^{*} I do not know what is the matter with me; but at the present time I have fits of melancholy enough to kill me."^{*} But on the very brink of the *#ra\o* «h«
*n**«
her

tained all her amiability, all her love of *<lt**s*, and the *gr*M*i»» mud of a drawing-room *HCH*liety. The immediate *** c;iuif*» of her *<2**ath was a mild cold she caught in taking a drive in the park of Malmaison **»«* a damp *r«ld* day. She expired on the noon of Sunday, the 11th of May, in the fifty-third year of her age. Her body was embalmed, and on the 15th day was *tr*«*r* «l«th deposited in a vault in the church of *Ett*il, *ctin*wi to *Mnt*maintm. The funeral ceremonies were magnificent, but a *lnstar* tribute to the memory of Josephine was to be found in the tears with which her children, her relatives, the neighboring poor, and all that knew her followed her to the *gn*vi*. In a beautiful monument was erected over her *r»*mal*it *liy* *Fug** *n**« and his sister, with this simple inscription : - -

TO JOSEPHINE,